

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 SAM-01 NEA-10

EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /085 W

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P 221030Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3094

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1073

ROME FOR AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET BASE ISSUE: SOMALI PROTEST NOTE III

REF: MOGADISCIO 1065

1. SOMALI NOTE OF PROTEST ON SOVIET BASE ISSUE (MOGADISCIO 1065) WAS PROBABLY TRIGGERED IN LARGE PART BY CONTINUING ADVERSE PUBLICITY WHICH SOMALI GOVT HAS RECEIVED ON SOVIET FACILITIES AT BERBERA. MUCH OF INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTING HAS ONLY RECENTLY REACHED MOGADISCIO, INCLUDING PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE REPORTS, AS WELL AS TIME AND NEWSWEEK STORIES, BOTH OF WHICH REACHED MOGADISCIO ON JULY 20. BOTH WERE CENSORED.

2. IT MAY BE THAT SOMALI OFFICIALS FINALLY FACING UP TO FACT THAT SIAD'S INVITATIONS TO US CONGRESS TO DEFUSE BERBERA

ALLEGATIONS WERE MISCALCULATION AND WENT AWRY, THAT GSDR AS MUCH VICTIMIZED BY CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVATIONS AS BY HIGH-ALTITUDE PHOTOGRAPHY AND THAT TIME HAS COME TO LAY IT ON LINE WITH USG. SUCH A REACTION WOULD TEND TO DEFLATE OUGS
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MORE OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF SIAD'S PURPOSE IN OPENING

THE DOORS TO US AT BERBERA.

3. UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY ITSELF HOWEVER DOES NOT RPT NOT FULLY EXPLAIN TIMING OF NOTE OR ITS LANGUAGE, WHICH BORROWS HEAVILY FROM LONG-STANDING SUSPICION OF US ACTIVITIES IN SOMALIA PREDATING BERBERA AFFAIR. ALTHOUGH SOMALI OFFICIALS MAY STILL BE DETERMINED TO SHUT OFF PUBLICITY, THEY MAY ALSO BE THINKING OF DELIVERING CREDIBLE PUBLIC REBUKE TO USG WHICH WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO FOREIGN OBSERVERS THAT SOMALI SOVEREIGNTY STILL INTACT. LATTER WOULD SATISFY SOMALI FRUSTRATION BUT LITTLE ELSE.

4. NOTE PINS BLAME SQUARELY ON EMBASSY IN MOGADISCIO FOR SPYING AND, WITH SOMEWHAT LESS PRECISION, FOR TARGETING BERBERA AND OTHER SOMALI LOCATITIES FOR SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY. GSDR PARANOIA ABOUT US EMBASSY IS OLD HAT IN MOGADISCIO, BUT IMPLICIT IN THESE MORE SPECIFIC STATEMENTS IS THREAT AGAINST EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL.

5. AT MINIMUM, SOMALI AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE TIMED DELIVERY OF NOTE TO COINCIDE WITH ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN TO SERVE NOTICE THAT EMBASSY AND ITS PERSONNEL WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR USG OR MEDIA STATEMENTS ON BERBERA. SINCE PUBLICITY WILL CONTINUE TO DIE AWAY OVER NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, THIS MAY BE SOMALI BLUFF INTENDED TO GET AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN OFF TO INTIMIDATING START. MOFA DIRECTOR GENERAL ABDURAHMAN BARRE LENDS HIS SKILLS TO THIS KIND OF PETTIFOGGERY AND WE SUSPECT HE HAD A HAND IN EXECUTION OF NOTE. BUT NOTE MAY ALSO BE INTENDED LAY GROUNDWORK IN IDENTIFYING SCAPEGOAT AMONG EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS. MOBILE SURVEILLANCE OF STAFF HAS INCREASED RECENTLY.

6. ON BERBERA ISSUE, SOMALI GOVT HAS IN EFFECT BEEN HOISTED BY ITS OWN PETARD. WHILE THERE IS NOT RPT NOT MUCH US CAN DO ABOUT THAT AT PRESENT TIME, WE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT HOWEVER ACQUIESE IN ANY WAY REGARDING ITS ALLEGATIONS ABOUT US ROLE IN MOGADISCIO.

HAMRICK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTEST, MILITARY BASES, ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI01073
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750256-1009
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750734/aaaabeft.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOGADISCIO 1065
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET BASE ISSUE: SOMALI PROTEST NOTE III
TAGS: PFOR, SO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006